

MINUTES OF THE 2018 TOWN MEETING FOR THE TOWN OF WEBSTER
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018

Moderator Robert Pearson called the meeting to order at 10:02am in the Webster Town Hall.

Sarah Mason announced the Webster PTO is hosting a Town-wide Yard Sale on May 5th. The cost is \$10 to have your location included on the map.

Moderator Pearson announced the Webster Fire Department is issuing fire permits and the Webster Church is selling food both at the back of the room.

He invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Select Board Chair Bruce Johnson presented a slide presentation of the Town's accomplishments in the last year. This included updated Town policies, the new solar array is up and running (energy production trackable through the Town's website), the Capital Improvement Plan is ready for annual review and the municipal website has been updated. He spoke of Clothespin Bridge updates and introduced the new Police Chief, Stephen Adams. He explained the solar array is a "showcase solar array" and the company will be using it as a showcase for other municipalities. Many upgrades were made at no cost to the Town and it is producing more electricity than predicted. The final cost was less than expected (\$115,000 was approved by the Town and the actual cost was \$86,000). Select Board Chair Johnson thanked the Energy Committee in their work on the solar array project. He explained the Capital Improvement Plan's purpose is part of an annual budget planning process. The committee provides input to the Select Board in creating budgets from year to year in forecasting major projects over a six-year period. This provides more transparency and accountability in the budget process and more detail in the funding categories. The long-term planning for major capital expenses is important to keep the spending level and to keep the tax rate stable. They make recommendations to put new monies into Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trust Funds to provide more oversight in the approval process and more clarity in invoicing and accounting. Select Board Chair Johnson thanked the Capital Improvement committee members and volunteers. He explained the Town received an additional \$61,243 to the normal Highway Block Grant money from the State. The money was used to work on the Town's gravel roads and get started on the Capital Improvement plans. He continued the presentation with a review of the 2018 warrant. The articles not affecting taxes were the White Plains Road Bridge & Culvert (grant funded); the police cruiser (capital reserve); and additional Highways and Road Block Grant (grant funded from the State). The budget would be the same as 2017. He explained that according to the NH Municipal Association our budgets are slightly lower than other towns our size. Webster owes only \$200,000 for the Public Safety Building and \$84,000 for the solar array leaving Webster as one of the NH towns with the lowest amount of debt. "We are all much more alike than not alike. It's something about the Town of Webster that keeps us here and keeps us returning to Town Meeting every year. Let's celebrate that. Let's work as a community to support each other. Find a way to work with each other and to move forward. If you like what you see and hear today then please stand up and say so. If you have a solution to a problem or a better idea then please stand up and share. And then share what you would do to make it happen. It's time to pull together, work together and move together. Let's do it this year." The Moderator called attention to the Moderator's Rules printed in the Town Report in order to follow along as he read through them. The Moderator explained he had spoken with two different lawyers and received two different opinions. The voters are the legislative body and the voters

make the decision. The Moderator will bring it to the voters' attention and explain to the voters the way he sees it and if the voters disagree, a vote will be taken and the voters make the decision. Chairman Johnson asked the Moderator to name the two lawyers he spoke to. Moderator Pearson answered Stephen Buckley and the Town's lawyer, Bart Mayer. He explained Stephen Buckley was from the NH Municipal Association and he is who the Moderator contacts with questions.

Moderator Pearson announced for all newly-elected positions to stay after the meeting to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

The Moderator read the results of the Tuesday, March 13, 2018 official ballot portion of Town Meeting:

Article 1: *The Moderator read Article 1 in its entirety, To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (BY BALLOT)*

OFFICE	TERM	NAME	# OF VOTES
Selectman	3 yrs	Adam Pearson	210
		Christine Schadler	243

The Moderator requested to the voters that after a vote is taken on any article or subject matter he does not want public response such as yays or nays. This will allow for a quicker, more orderly meeting. He announced that 453 ballots were cast at the election.

Moderator	2 yrs	Robert Pearson III	327
Supervisor of the Checklist	4 yrs	George Cummings	366
Supervisor of the Checklist	6 yrs	Henry Bergeron	374
Cemetery Trustee	3 yrs	Darlene Cummings	387
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Leslie Collins	389
Trustee of Trust Funds	3 yrs	Patricia Ilacqua	376

Article 2: *The Moderator read only the results of Article 2, To see if the Town will vote to combine the offices of Town Clerk/Tax Collector under the provisions of RSA 41:45-a, with a term of office to be 3 years. If approved, an article shall be placed on the ballot at the next annual meeting to choose a town clerk/tax collector. (Majority ballot vote required). (BY BALLOT) This Article SUBMITTED BY PETITION*

YES – 64

NO -- 377

Article 3: *. The Moderator read Article 3 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,458,784 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)*

The Moderator made a motion to accept this article.

Select Board Chair Johnson moved the question and it was seconded by Roger Becker.

The Moderator opened Article 3 for discussion.

Select Board Chair Johnson made a motion to increase the appropriation in Article 3 from \$1,458,784 to \$1,458, 786; a two dollar increase.

The motion was seconded.

Select Board Chair Johnson thanked the Moderator for moderating Town Meeting. He explained

that the amendment was an increase of only \$2 with no effect on the tax rate. The intention of this amendment was a symbolic statement of appreciation to support our first responders, our firefighters, EMT's and police officers and our new police chief. One dollar of the increase is to go to line item #422014-614 for Fire Department Training so that line changes to \$2,401. The other dollar would go to line item #421012-615 which is the Police Training line so that line would change to \$2,626.

The Moderator asked for discussion.

The Moderator called for a vote on the amendment to Article 3 to increase the appropriation from \$1,458,784 to \$1,458,786, a two dollar increase.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 3 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amended article.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Restrict Reconsideration of Article 3

Mike Jette made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 3, seconded by David Collins.

No discussion.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Article 3.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 4: *The Moderator read Article 4 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$196,500** to be added to the following established Capital Reserve Funds under RSA 35:1. (Majority vote required)*

Office Equipment	8,000
Fire Department – Air Packs	20,000
Bridge and Culvert Improvements	75,000
Fire Department – Dry Hydrant/Repairs	2,000
Reappraisal	5,000
Town Hall Improvements	5,000
Police Cruiser	12,000
Emergency Apparatus	45,000
Fire Department – Bunker Gear	2,500
Public Safety Building	2,000
Webster/Hopkinton Transfer Station	5,000
Police Equipment	1,500
Highway Equipment	7,500
Medical Equipment	6,000

The Moderator called for a motion to Article 4. It was moved by Roger Becker and seconded by David Collins..

The Moderator opened for discussion on Article 4.

Ryan Dubuc made a motion to raise the amount to \$201,500 with an increase of \$5,000 in the Public Safety Building line to keep up with future repairs to the building. He explained the building is 14 years old and repairs/replacements to the building are ongoing. The Moderator called for a second and it was made by David Collins. The Moderator repeated the motion to amend to raise the sum of \$196,500 to \$201,500. Selectman Borek added the increase would be in the Public Safety Building Capital Reserve Fund from \$5,000 to \$7,000. Ryan Dubuc stated it should increase from \$2,000 to \$5,000 only up \$3,000. Ryan clarified the total would go up only \$3,000. David Collins withdrew his second to the motion and Ryan Dubuc withdrew his motion to amend Article 4.

Ryan Dubuc made a motion to raise the sum from \$196,500 to \$199,500 and to raise the Public Safety Building Capital Reserve Fund from \$2,000 to \$5,000, a \$3,000 increase. Seconded by David Collins.

Sue Roman explained the Capital Improvement Plan had projects listed for the Public Safety Building and asked what the money would be spent on. Ryan Dubuc explained there was not a specific need in mind at this time but it would be for the less expensive needs of the Public Safety Building such as improving the speaker system.

Mike Jette asked about the current monies in the Public Safety Building Capital Reserve Fund added with the \$2,000 budgeted for 2018. Selectman Borek explained that \$5,000 was added last year and this year \$2,000 is budgeted and that the amendment is intended to bring the line amount up to the amount budgeted last year. The Moderator stated the voters are asking why the money currently in the fund cannot be spent on needs before more money is added. Selectman Borek said it is up to the people. David Collins explained the Public Safety Building has five furnaces and an ongoing issue of gas smell on the police side and that an air quality study may be needed. He stated it is easier to use money already saved than to ask the town for a lot of money.

The Moderator called for a vote on the amendment to Article 4 to increase the amount from \$196,500 to \$199,500.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 4 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

The Moderator read the amended article and asked for questions.

There were no questions and he called for a voice vote on the amended article.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 5: *The Moderator read the first sentence in Article 5 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$19,500** to add to the following established Expendable Trust Funds per RSA 31:19-a. (Majority vote required)*

Forest Fire	2,000
Legal (Webster)	4,000
Welfare	1,000
Highway	5,000
Fire Department Equipment	5,000
Compensated Absences	2,500

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Article 5. Roger Becker made the motion and David Collins seconded the motion.

The Moderator asked for discussion on Article 5. No discussion

The Moderator called for a vote on Article 5.

ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Restrict Reconsideration of Articles 4 and 5

David Collins made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 4 and Article 5; seconded by Renee Doucette.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Article 4 and Article 5.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 6: *The Moderator read Article 6 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$295,000** for the Knights Brook Culvert Replacement on White Plains Rd. and to authorize the withdrawal of **\$73,750** from the Bridge and Culvert Improvements Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of **\$221,250** is to come from a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant. This appropriation is contingent upon receipt of the grant. No money is to come from taxation. This is a Special Warrant Article. (Majority vote required)*

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Article 6. Roger Becker made the motion and it was seconded.

The Moderator opened the article for discussion.

Jon Pearson made a motion to correct Knights Brook to Knights Meadow Brook. George Cummings seconded the motion to amend.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to amend Article 6 to read Knights Meadow Brook Culvert Replacement.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 6 PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

The Moderator asked for further questions.

Gordon Welch asked if the grant money covered the approaches, the guardrails and all work that needs to be done or is it just the culvert. Select Board Chair Johnson answered it would cover everything including raising the road up a bit.

Tara Gunnigle asked what would happen if the grant is not received and what is the timeline. Leslie Palmer, Administrative Assistant replied the results of the grant will be known by April. She explained she had also filed a letter of intent for another round of grant funding that is opening up in 2018 in case the first grant does not come through.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on Article 6 as amended.

AMENDED ARTICLE PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 7: *The Moderator read Article 7 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to establish a Road Preservation Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of covering expenses related to annual road preservation and to raise and appropriate **\$200,000** to put in the fund, with this amount to come from taxation; and further to name the Select Board as Agents to Expend from said fund until rescinded. This is a Special Warrant Article. (Majority vote required)*

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Article 7. It was moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the article for discussion.

Guy Larochelle asked where the money was going. Selectman Borek explained he and the Road Agent prepared a spreadsheet (attached below) of the roads the monies would be going to. Guy Larochelle asked if there are other funds for the roads why another appropriation is needed. Selectman Borek explained every year \$165,000 in Road Preservation is raised. The Capital Improvement Plan devised a six-year rotation plan to preserve the roads.

2018 Road Preservation Expendable Trust Fund

Warrant Article

Gravel Roads	CIP - \$64,000	\$20,328 per mile Price, Trucking and Delivery
Mutton Road	1.25 miles	\$25,410.00
Clough & Sanborn Hill Road	1 mile	\$20,328.00
Province Road	.5 miles	\$10,164.00
Winnepocket Road	0.6 miles	\$12,197.00
Total	3.35 miles	\$68,099.00
Crack, Sand & Chip Seal	CIP \$88,000	Crack Seal \$5,000/mile
Dustin Road	1 mile Chip Seal-Price quoted	\$29,515.20
Little Hill Road	2 miles Chip Seal-Price quoted	\$28,082.40
Deer Meadow Road	3 miles Crack Seal	\$15,000.00
Clothespin Road	1.7 miles Crack Seal	\$8,500.00
Pleasant Street	2 miles Crack Seal	\$10,000.00
NH Drive	0.6 mile Crack Seal	\$3,000.00
Pearson Hill Road	.8 mile Crack Seal	\$4,000.00
Total	11.1 miles	\$98,097.60
Grader Shim	CIP \$70,000	
Possible Roads		\$33,803.40
White Plains Road		
Franklin Pierce		
Total		\$33,803.40
Total for 2018		\$200,000.00

Culvert for White Plains road then Graded Shim

31 miles of roads in the Town of Webster. 5,280 ft in a mile.

11.96 miles of Gravel Roads. 19.15 miles of Paved Roads

Gravel-1000 yards per mile, 12 yards per truck = approximately 84 truck loads

\$220 each truck load = \$18,480 plus 10% = \$20,328

Price per truck load includes gravel, pickup and delivery and, work hours

Spreading of gravel comes out of summer budget - General Highways and Roads

Brendan Merchant asked if the money to do the work was put out to bid or if the numbers came from the Road Agent.

Selectman Borek stated it came from the Road Agent but he would contact other towns to confirm the figures given are in line. The quotes for crack seal and chip seal came from Bruce Davis.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 8: *The Moderator read Article 8 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to establish a Highway and Roads Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of covering expenses related to major upgrades of specific roads (as defined in the Capital Improvement Program) and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$125,000** to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Select Board as Agents to Expend from said fund until rescinded. This is a Special Warrant Article. (Majority vote required)*

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Article 8. It was moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the article for discussion.

There being no discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Restrict Reconsideration of Articles 6, 7 and 8

David Collins made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 6, 7 and 8; seconded by Renee Doucette.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Articles 6, 7 and 8.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 9: *The Moderator read Article 9 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$65,000** for the purchase of 15 radios and a bank of chargers to replace those at the Fire Department. (Majority vote required)*

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Article 9. It was moved and seconded.

The Moderator opened the article for discussion.

Brendan Merchant asked if the Fire Department received other quotes for the cost of each radio. Ryan Dubuc stated the Motorola radios the Fire Department is looking at are State bid and the numbers would not change if they went somewhere else. He offered to meet with Brendan Merchant to discuss the purchase of radios. He explained the current radios were bought with State grant money twelve years ago and the batteries are failing and will not hold a charge. New batteries are \$120 each and parts are getting harder to obtain.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 10: *The Moderator read Article 10 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$36,500** for the purchasing of a 2018 Police Cruiser and related equipment, with **\$34,000** to come from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose and **\$2,500** to come from the trade-in/sale of the Police Department 2010 Ford Crown Vic. No funds will be raised through taxation. This is an Individual Warrant Article. (Majority vote required)*

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Article 10. Roger Becker moved the motion and Renee Doucette seconded.

The Moderator opened the article for discussion.

There being no discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Restrict Reconsideration of Articles 9 and 10

David Collins made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 9 and 10, seconded by Renee Doucette.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Articles 9 and 10.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 11: *The Moderator read Article 11 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** to help offset the cost of the bond for “Funds to Repair Dam” passed at the Pillsbury Lake Water District Special Meeting held August 5, 2006. (Majority vote required)*

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Article 11. Renee Doucette moved the motion and David Collins seconded.

The Moderator opened the article for discussion.

David Collins explained this article has come up for many years and the Pillsbury Lake District is half way through the bond term. The \$10,000 in this article is only a third of the actual annual cost and the Pillsbury Lake District covers the other two thirds.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Restrict Reconsideration of Article 11.

David Collins made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 11, seconded by Renee Doucette.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to restrict reconsideration on Article 11.

PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 12: *The Moderator read Article 12 in its entirety, To see if the Town will vote to hire a Town Administrator to assist the BOS in the management of the town under the provisions of RSA 41:2. The position would be filled by appointment by the Select Board.*

This Article SUBMITTED BY PETITION

The Moderator called for a motion to consider Article 12. Betsy Janeway moved the motion and Renee Doucette seconded.

David Collins stated that nobody spoke in support of this article at the Budget Hearing. The NHMA defines an Administrative Assistant and Town Administrator as essentially the same job. He suggested if petitioned articles are brought forward in the future they should meet with the Board beforehand.

Tara Gunnigle stated the time has come for the Town to have a Town Administrator. Aiding the Board of Selectman and saving the Town money while getting back on track with many unfinished projects. This is an advisory article with no time limit. She spoke to how an Administrator can be constructive on getting the Town back on track. This is not a personal attack on anyone. Gunnigle explained she went to DRA and several neighboring towns and Webster is the only town without an administrator. She compared the cost of employees from Salisbury (7) to those of Webster (6)

with Webster paying \$24,000 more with one less employee not including the benefits costs. She explained the duties of a town administrator and stated our Administrative Assistant does all the duties she explained.

As a point of order, Select Board Chair Johnson asked for a vote of the people to allow Tara Gunnigle to continue speaking as she had exceeded the time limit. It was seconded by Scott Sweezey.

The Moderator called for a voice vote to end the discussion from Tara Gunnigle.

PASSED BY VOTE.

John Clark stated the Board of Selectmen should think about hiring a Town Administrator down the road.

Chris Schadler reminded the voters that an Administrative Assistant and a Town Administrator are essentially the same according to the NH Municipal Association.

Dan Nudd asked the Board of Selectmen for their opinion. Select Board Chair Johnson stated the Board does not recommend the article.

Roger Becker commented the statute shows very little difference between a Town Administrator and an Administrative Assistant. The biggest difference is the salary for the Town Administrator is higher than that of the Administrative Assistant.

Tara Gunnigle addressed the salaries of Webster's Administrative Assistant versus Salisbury's Town Administrator. She also stressed the unfinished projects in Town.

Select Board Chair Johnson commented getting involved and helping to finish the projects by joining a committee.

David Collins addressed the salt shed and a lot of time has been spent by volunteers to work on the Hazardous Mitigation Plan for the town to address those issues. They are being addressed as a group of volunteers and the Administrative Assistant.

The Moderator called for a voice vote.

FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article 13: *The Moderator read Article 13 in its entirety, To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.*

Ryan Dubuc announced fire permits were being issued in the back of the Hall on Wednesday nights between 7:00-8:00pm at the Public Safety Building. Plan ahead for brush fire permits. Permits are also available on line for a \$3.00 charge.

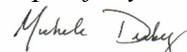
Selectman Borek thanked Select Board Chair Bruce Johnson for all the work he has done for seven years. Bruce has never missed a Select Board meeting. He was presented with a decorated chair for his continued attendance at Select Board Meetings. He received a standing ovation. He was also given a kayak paddle.

Bruce Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by George Cummings. The Moderator called for a voice vote to adjourn the meeting.

PASSED BY VOTE.

Meeting adjourned at 11:39am.

Respectfully Submitted,


Michele Derby
Town Clerk